

**ABSTRACT**

A vehicle door latch mechanism including safety structural components. The latch mechanism includes a latch bolt having a closed condition capable of retaining a striker and an open condition capable of releasing the striker, a pawl which in use  
5 releasably secures the latch bolt in its closed condition, and a retention plate. The retention plate includes at least one mouth which co-operates with a retention means to releasably retain the striker in the mouth, at least one pivot pin hole defining a pivot pin hole surface for a pivot pin which is secured to the retention plate in the hole or is pivotally mounted in the hole, and at least one fixing means for fixing a latch mechanism  
10 in its operating position. The latch bolt, pawl and retention plate co-operate in use to releasably retain a striker in which at least one of the said safety critical structural components is made from a plurality of structural laminations of material.

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